

Remarks:

At the outset, applicants wish to thank the Examiner for discussing the previous rejections in this case and for generating the Examiner Interview Summary.

Claims 1-28 are in this case. Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize that the inventive structure is an electronic attenuator circuit and that the components of the circuit are formed by groups of thermistors connected by electrodes. Further, the component values can be selected by trimming the electrode material to select the number of thermistors in each component. (Specification, page 4, lines 16-20). Claim 2 has been amended to call for an LTCC substrate. (Specification, page 2, lines 17-18). The term electrode, as a term of art, replaces metallization in claim 4 and elsewhere in the claims. In claim 6, parallel or series groups of thermistors form the individual impedance components of the attenuator.

New claim 9 adds a selection of specific types of circuit topologies as supported by fig. 4 and the Specification at page 4, lines 6 - 11. New claim 10 calls for electrodes created by metallization patterns. New claim 11 calls for the attenuator device as compensation where the electronic circuit is an amplifier having gain as a function of temperature and new claim 12, where a passive circuit's change in loss can be compensated by the attenuator device's changes with temperature.

New claim 13 calls for a combination of at least one group of thermistors having a different temperature coefficient than at least one of the other groups that form the attenuator device. New claim 14 calls for the case where the temperature coefficients between at least two of the groups are different and of differing sign, as in positive temperature coefficient and negative temperature coefficient. New claims 15 and 16 are similar to dependent claims 11 and 12.

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New claims 17 to 26 are similar to dependent claims 3-12. New claim 27 calls for an attenuator device fabricated in the LTCC technology, with trimmable electrodes. And, new claim 28 calls for an attenuator device where at least two of the groups of thermistors comprise different temperature coefficients.

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies an RCE. It is believed that the application now complies with all aspects of 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 and is in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action in this regard are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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